

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 159 – SB 1465

March 19, 2019

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Extends the Suicide Prevention Act of 2018 indefinitely. Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to compile data on the medications that were prescribed to those who died by suicide. Requires DOH to submit a report recommending any necessary programs or policies to prevent suicide deaths in this state to the Health Committee of the House of Representatives and the Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate, rather than the members of the General Assembly, no later than June 30, 2020, and by June 30 every two years thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$12,900/One-Time
\$321,400/Recurring

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006132): Deletes and rewrites all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive change is to require healthcare professionals licensed by the health related boards (HRB) and all licensed health facilities to submit any records requested by the members of the Suicide Prevention Program that may be necessary to complete the review of a specific fatality.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Public Chapter 1005 of the Public Acts of 2018 enacted the *Suicide Prevention Act* of 2018, set to sunset on June 30, 2021. To accomplish the requirements of the Act, the DOH required one Public Health Program Director (PHPD) 2 position. Due to the sunset date of the Act, this position was to be abolished at the end of FY20-21.
- The proposed legislation extends the Act indefinitely. As a result, the current funding applicable to the PHPD position will be extended indefinitely.
- There are approximately 1,100 suicides in Tennessee annually.

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- Based on information provided by the DOH, the proposed legislation cannot be accommodated within existing resources. The DOH will require one Epidemiologist 2 position and two Registered Nurse 4 positions to review medical records to ascertain medications prescribed to victims of suicide.
- The Epidemiologist 2 position will establish a database of medications prescribed for inclusion into the report and for matching of database information currently available on the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database and the National Violent Death Reporting System.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures associated with the three additional positions is estimated to be \$12,900 [(\$1,600 computer cost + \$2,700 office furniture) x 3 positions].
- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the Epidemiologist 2 position is estimated to be \$116,187 (\$85,524 salary + \$20,763 benefits + \$7,900 administrative cost + \$1,400 communications + \$600 supplies).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the two Registered Nurse 4 positions is estimated to be \$205,202 [(\$73,872 salary + \$18,829 benefits + \$7,900 administrative cost + \$1,400 communications + \$600 supplies) x 2 positions].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$321,389 (\$116,187 + \$205,202).
- The proposed legislation will not have a significant impact on the procedures or processes of the HRB or the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities (HCF); therefore, any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.
- The Board of HCF is required to collect fees in an amount sufficient to pay the costs of operating the Board. All fees collected by the Board are deposited by the Department of Health with the State Treasurer to the credit of the General Fund and shall be expended by the Department and included in the appropriation made for the Board in the General Appropriations Act.
- Any change in expenditures of the Board is estimated to be not significant.
- The Board of HCF had a deficit of \$161,129 in FY16-17 and a deficit of \$562,731 in FY17-18.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/vlh